

The Wheeling Intelligence.

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CLEVELAND'S COURSE

In Regard to the Democratic Nomination for President.

A DECLINATION WAS WRITTEN

To be Given to the Press, but His Wife Told One of His Close Friends, Who Called a Council of His Advisers and Prevailed on the Stuffed Prophet Not to Drop Into Innocuous Desuetude--He Was Tired of Bickerings and Abuse.

New York, March 17.—The Evening Telegram says: Notwithstanding all that is said concerning the anxiety of Mr. Cleveland to be renominated for the presidency, the Telegram is in a position to announce on unimpeachable authority that the ex-president recently wrote a letter declaring that he would not allow himself to be put in nomination. This letter was written in vigorous and sweeping language. Mr. Cleveland said in the strongest and simplest way that he would not accept a nomination. No one but Mrs. Cleveland knew of the letter. The ex-President penned it without the knowledge of his political friends in order to prevent them from attempting to interfere with his action. Mr. Cleveland intended to make the letter public through the Associated Press, and it was written with that purpose in view.

On the very day that the declination was to be published, Mrs. Cleveland saved the situation by sending for one of the leader's most trusted friends. To this gentleman Mr. Cleveland frankly confessed that he was sick of the little daily in-fighting upon his private life; that he had not lifted so much as his little finger to secure a nomination; that nothing would induce him to enter the race, and that he had plainly said so in a letter that could be printed at once.

After a few minutes conversation Mr. Cleveland's friend induced him to promise that the letter would not be given to the Associated Press for twenty-four hours. Word was sent to several of the most faithful and level-headed Cleveland men and a council was hurriedly held.

Mr. Cleveland spoke with great feeling at this council, but he was at last persuaded to withdraw the letter.

Are for Cleveland.

COLUMBUS, MISS., March 17.—One hundred and fifty of the business men of this city were interrogated yesterday as to their choice for President. The result was: Cleveland 99, Hill 38, Boies 6, Palmer 3, Campbell 2, Gorman 1.

Hill's Invasion.

of the South.—Greeted by Big Crowds of Democrats at Every Station.

MACON, GA., March 17.—The train bearing Senator Hill and party reached this city at 10:30 a. m. During the brief stop made at the station the train was boarded by many of the most prominent Democrats and Senator Hill held an interesting levee for fifteen minutes.

While the senator was greeting the most prominent citizens on the inside, a large crowd was gathered in the road, and there was loud cries of "Hill," "Hill." Stepping out on the car platform, Senator Hill said:

"FELLOW CITIZENS:—I am marching through Georgia to-day [laughter] on my way to the sea. I think I could not spend St. Patrick's day any better than by interviewing my fellow citizens through this great empire state of the south. As you observe, I am wearing the St. Patrick day colors to-day. [Applause.] I am proud of the Democracy of this grand old state of Georgia, a Democracy that has not known defeat for many years. [Applause.] Keep up your organization—be true to your principles, as we will in the north."

The little town of Wadley was reached at 2:40 this afternoon and here the party stopped for dinner. Quite a crowd was gathered, and at the conclusion of the dinner, and just as the train was about to move, Senator Hill was introduced to the audience by Hon. Temple Graves, as a man who has materialized Democratic ideas into a fighting creed. [Applause.]

"Fellow citizens," said Senator Hill, "I am obliged to you for this reception. Here the train started. [But I am obliged to go.] [Laughter.]

"Vote the Democratic ticket and you will be happy." [Laughter.]

At Millen, the largest crowd of the afternoon was assembled and Senator Hill made a brief address. At this point, Hon. Patrick Walsh, of the Augusta Daily Chronicle boarded the train, bearing a pressing invitation to Senator Hill from the citizens of Augusta to visit that city to-morrow.

Another half hour's ride brought the party to the hospitable Southern city of Savannah, where they were received by the Hibernian society, whose guest Senator Hill became, and were escorted to the De Soto Hotel.

GAEBLER'S HUNT IS FINISHED.

The Montana Barber Who Ran Down New York Bunco Steerers.

New York, March 17.—The strange career of Richard A. E. Gaebler, the amateur detective who makes a specialty of hunting down bunco-steerers, is fast drawing to a close. He lies in ward No. 12 of Bellevue hospital, unconscious and dying. He was found early yesterday morning at Canal street and the Bowery, and stupefied, and he was taken to Edridge street police station a "drunk." Later the doorman heard him groaning and the sergeant sent for an ambulance and he was removed to the hospital. It is believed that he has a fractured skull. One of the doctors said: "We want to be able to tell that for certain, though, until we hold the autopsy."

Gaebler was a barber in Montana, who came to New York only to be buncoed out of about \$2,000, all he had. He went to Recorder Smythe and got sworn in as a special officer, and thereafter devoted all his energy to running down the swindlers. He had remarkable success, catching his men one after another. The notoriety and prominence he earned by his detective work quite turned his head. He tried to get on the police force, telling every one that he was a great detective.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY.

The New York Organization to Vote on the Increase of Capital.

New York, March 17.—An evening paper says: William Rockefeller, John D. Archbold and W. H. Tilford, as directors, have issued a call for a special meeting of the stockholders of the Standard Oil Company, of New York, to determine whether the capital stock of the company shall be increased to a total amount of \$7,000,000, to consist of 70,000 shares of a par value of \$100 each. The meeting is to be held at 11 a. m. on March 31, at 36 Broadway.

S. C. T. Todd, counsel for the Standard Oil company, said to-day that this action will be an immediate result of the dissolution of the Standard Oil trust, which is to take place at a meeting to be held on March 31. The present capitalization of the New York Standard Oil company is \$5,000,000.

It is likely some of the Standard Oil companies in other states may be recapitalized as a result of the dissolution of the trust. The breaking up of the latter will unlock the securities of those companies and it may be decided to increase the capitalization in order to bring them more nearly to represent the value of the property of these companies since the trust was formed, and to aid in the scheme of redistribution incidental to dissolution.

ALLEGHENY OFFICIALS

Charged With Appropriating the City's Money to Their Own Use.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 17.—The hearing in the case of John R. Murphy, chief of the department of safety of Allegheny, Assistant Superintendent of Police Glenn and Detective Donaldson, charged before Alderman Schellman, of Allegheny by Auditor John McKirdy, with having appropriated fees received from workhouse commitments to their own use, was set for three o'clock this afternoon, but on account of the absence of the prosecutor the case was dismissed.

There were two charges against Chief Murphy, the other charge being that he received money from the proprietors of gambling houses, policy shops and other places of ill-repute. The charges were embezzlement and bribery.

Immediately after the dismissal of the case, Auditor McKirdy put in an appearance, and explained that he had been delayed by the snow storm. He immediately lodged new informations against the three officials named and included two others, Detective Kornman and Officer Sam McClure. Superintendent Glenn came in a short time later and entered bail in the sum of \$1,000 for a hearing. Warrants were issued for the others. The hearing will probably take place some day next week.

SECY FOSTER REITERATES

His Denial of the Offensive Irish Phrase Attributed to Him.

New York, March 17.—The friendly sons of St. Patrick held a banquet at Delmonico's to-night and listened to speeches by Chauncey M. Depew, Congressman Allen, of Mississippi; Gen. Horace Porter, and very brief remarks by Secretary of the Treasury Charles Foster.

Mr. Foster was an unexpected guest, and in prefacing his remarks, said: "When I came here, it was on the distinct understanding that I need say nothing in regard to the phrase 'fannel-mouthed Irishman' which has been attributed to me."

He made no further mention of the matter and when he had finished and the applause had subsided, Captain Saunders, of the Old Guard, arose and asked: "Did you ever use the words, 'fannel-mouthed Irishman'?"

"No, sir," responded the secretary. "I never did."

"Three cheers for Secretary Foster," some one shouted, and the cheers were given with a will.

KILLED IN A FRIENDLY SET-TO.

The Sudden Death of a School Teacher From a Sportive Scuffle.

New Orleans, March 17.—Last night, at Alexandria, Prof. Clarence C. Dockerty and P. Gallagher, a New Orleans man engaged as solicitor for a building association, were in a party at the Exchange hotel bar room, and the conversation turned on boxing. The two got up an impromptu sparring exhibition. They clinched, and before they could break away Prof. Dockerty's foot caught in the foot of the bar. He fell heavily to the floor, striking on his face. He did not move after striking the floor, and when picked up it was found that his neck was broken. The coroner's inquest returned a verdict to the effect that death was the result of a scuffle. Prof. Dockerty was the principal of the Alexandria High School and Business College.

THE INDIAN'S CARGO UNLOADED

And on Its Way to the Famine Districts of Russia.

LIBAU, March 17.—The unloading of the cargo brought by the steamship Indiana, from Philadelphia, for the relief of the Russian famine sufferers was finished to-day. The last eight bags were carried by Count Brobrinski, the chief of the famine relief committee to the City Prefect of Libau; Captain Sargent, of the Indiana; Mr. Crawford, the U. S. consul at St. Petersburg; Mr. Bornheldt, the U. S. consul at Riga; the railroad director and Dr. Dulan. Afterward the first train load of provisions was dispatched to the distressed districts. The departure of the train was made an occasion of great ceremony. The chief American and Russian officials toasted the health of the czar and President Harrison amid the playing of the national anthems of the two countries.

New Asylum Superintendent.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

COLUMBUS, O., March 17.—The Board of Trustees of the Central Insane asylum met this afternoon for the purpose of electing a new superintendent. Among the large number of applicants for the position the board selected Dr. A. B. Richardson, of Cincinnati, who was for many years superintendent of the Athens asylum.

Dairy and Food Commission.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

COLUMBUS, O., March 17.—Dr. Frederick B. McNeil, dairy and food commissioner-elect, has been appointed by Governor McKinley, Ohio's representative to the National Dairy and Food Commission Association, to be held at Washington on the 30th and 31st of March.

CHICAGO'S SENSATION.

A Scheme of Bribery That Ellipses Tweed's Best Efforts.

THE MOST FLAGRANT BRIBERY

Resorted to in Corrupting the Windy City Board of Aldermen—Framing for the Compressed Air, Northern Pacific and Economic Gas Companies Obtained by the Liberal Use of Money.—The Evidence to be Presented to the Grand Jury To-day—Clear Case of Boodlism.

CHICAGO, March 17.—As a sequel to the recent passage by the City Council of an ordinance granting permission to the Chicago Power Supply and Compressed Air Company to use the streets and alleys of the city in about any manner it sees fit, the indictment of a number of aldermen by the grand jury for alleged boodlism is promised. The City Associated Press reports: "Bribery of the most flagrant kind will be shown. Corruption and rottenness beyond the ideas of the most cynical citizen will be disclosed and the facts which made a position on Chicago's board worth hundreds of dollars of preliminary expenditure in nominations will be disclosed. To-morrow evidence will be presented to the grand jury showing beyond the peradventure of a doubt that certain aldermen have been paid liberally and in hard cash for their votes. The jury will listen to a tale of rottenness and corruption to which the 'boodling' of the county commissioners and the Tweed ring was nothing."

When the Northern Pacific ordinance was passed and which in the support of the economic gas position was made by prominent members of the council, suspicion was created, and when in one instance at least this suspicion grew to positive certainty of corruption, the investigation was set on foot which it is now said will end only when several present members of Chicago's City Council are wearing the stripes of Joliet penitentiary.

Gen. Lieb, the foreman of the grand jury and State's Attorney Longenecker have agreed that the evidence which the latter has for some time been preparing shall be presented to the jury. Among the witnesses subpoenaed are two members of the council, who were dragged into the boodling operations and who have expressed a willingness to tell all they know. State's Attorney Longenecker says he expects to show that all three of the ordinances—the Compressed Air, the Northern Pacific and the Economic Gas—were passed by virtue of the purchase of votes for hard cash.

The compressed air ordinance was passed by a vote of 46 to 12. A week or two later, after the mayor had signed the ordinance, another ordinance was presented to the council, providing for the repeal of the original ordinance. This repealing ordinance failed of passage by a vote of 40 to 22.

BUCKET SHOPS RAIDED.

Doctored Tickets Run by Electric Motors. Brokers Go Free.

CHICAGO, March 17.—The police this afternoon began their raid on the bucket shops. The institution they visited has been running for a week, just opposite the city hall on Washington street, right under the noses of the police department. Only the operatives, twelve in number, were arrested, the roomful of brokers being allowed to depart. The police examination of the place developed the fact that the tickets, the quotations of which were supposed to emanate from the Western Union wires, were mere clocks, the tape being prepared in advance, and the ticker run by an electric motor stationed in the room. It is said this is the beginning of a wholesale raid on all similar institutions in the city.

CIRCUIT JUDGES CONFIRMED

After a Long Session—The Fight Made Against Woods.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—The senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations: U. S. circuit judges—William L. Putnam, of Maine, first circuit; Nathaniel Shipman, of Connecticut, second circuit; George M. Dallas, of Pennsylvania, third circuit; Nathan Goff, of West Virginia, fourth circuit; Andrew P. McCormick, of Texas, fifth circuit; William H. Taft, of Ohio, sixth circuit; William A. Woods, of Indiana, seventh circuit; Walter H. Sanborn, of Minnesota, eighth circuit; Joseph McKenna, of California, ninth circuit; Charles P. Jagg, of California, to be assistant surgeon in the navy.

After spending four hours and a half to-day in the consideration of the judicial nominations, the senate finally disposed of them by confirming all of the nominations, thus ending one of the most protracted struggles in recent years involving presidential nominations. Mr. Turpie's speech occupied the larger part of the day's proceedings, and several calls of the senate were necessary in order to insure the presence of a quorum. When the roll of words was made at an end and the roll call had been made it appeared that Judge Woods, whose name stood first on the list, and against whom the attack had been directed, had been confirmed by a bare majority, the vote standing 23 to 22. Subsequently one more vote was added to the affirmative list, making the vote stand 24 to 22. The vote was strictly according to party lines, with the exception of Senator Puffer, who voted against confirmation with the Democratic senators. Senator Stewart was not present.

Coal Operator Dead.

PITTSBURGH, March 17.—Robert M. Blackburn, the oldest coal operator in western Pennsylvania, having been in the business for fifty-seven years, died this afternoon. The deceased was very wealthy and was known to river men from Pittsburgh to New Orleans.

Max Strakosch Dead.

New York, March 17.—Max Strakosch, the famous musical composer, died this afternoon at the house for incurables in Fordham of paralysis. He had been an inmate of the institution for several months.

TARIFF DISCUSSION.

Mr. Payne Defends the McKinley Bill. Harter, of Ohio, Squeezed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—The house to-day went into committee of the whole (Mr. Blount, of Georgia, in the chair) on the free wool bill.

Mr. Payne, of New York, defended the McKinley act, and entered upon an argument in vindication of the rulings of Speaker Reed in the last Congress, intimating that the gentlemen who were denouncing that gentleman as a tyrant, were evidently not speaking in good faith, after their action in sustaining the ruling of Speaker Crisp a few days ago relative to the reading of the journal.

Proceeding to defend the McKinley act, he spoke of the advantage accruing to the people from a protective tariff and referred to the increasing production of tin and the manufacture of tin plate. In order to strengthen Mr. Payne's argument, Mr. Bowers, of California, said that to-morrow he would have upon his desk a tin block made in his district which would weigh fifty-six pounds.

Mr. Payne—And I can prove by one hundred men upon the other side that it never came from California, but from Wales. [Laughter.]

Mr. Bowers—You do not mean they will prove it, but that they will say it. [Laughter.]

Then Mr. Bowers, taking his hat, left the hall, and in a few minutes returned with his block of tin, which he placed in triumph upon his desk, and called the attention of the members to it, amid laughter.

HARTER HIT HARD.

Mr. Harter, of Ohio, then took a hand in the discussion and pled Mr. Payne with a number of questions, of which Mr. Payne finally wearied, and himself assumed the role of interlocutor, inquiring whether the gentleman from Ohio had yet received a reply from Senator Hill. [Laughter.] Senator Hill did not appear to be with the gentleman on the tariff any more than he was with him on the silver question. He hoped that the gentleman from Ohio when he heard from Senator Hill on the silver question would also tell that gentleman's views on the question of the tariff. [Laughter.]

Mr. Payne was followed by Mr. Raynor, of Maryland, who spoke against the McKinley bill. Mr. Ellis, of Kentucky, spoke in advocacy of the pending measure. The basis of the entire tariff, he said, was the woolen schedule, and it was the duty of the Democratic house to break through this schedule, and thus cause the entire structure to totter. This was a progressive measure.

The present law utterly disregarded the rights of consumers and added nothing to the rate of wages; its whole scope and purpose being to aid private enterprise at the expense of the public. The committee then rose and the house adjourned.

A JOINT DEBATE

On the Silver Question—Harter and Bartine to be the Champions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—The suggestion, originally made as a joke, that Mr. Harter, of Ohio, and Mr. Bartine, of Missouri, the leaders of the two extremes on the silver question, should be brought together and allowed to discuss the matter to a finish, has taken a practical form, organizations in both Philadelphia and New York having proposed a joint debate between the two gentlemen on the silver question. Several days ago a representative of one of the commercial organizations of Philadelphia said to Messrs. Bland and Harter that they proposed having a joint debate with the silver question as the topic, and asked them if they would consent to champion their respective doctrines. Mr. Bland's health has been very poor for some time, keeping him away from the house a number of days lately, and while agreeing with the suggestion for a joint debate, he asked to be personally excused, and suggested Representative Bartine, of Nevada, as a member qualified to present the views of the free coinage men.

Mr. Harter said he was willing to be one of the debators, and suggested to Mr. Bartine that there be two men on each side. Mr. Bartine did not concur in this suggestion, saying that it would not enable any one of the debators to do himself justice.

Since then a labor organization in New York has written here also suggesting a joint silver debate and proposing Cooper-Institute as the place. The purpose was to have the debate take place in advance of action on the silver bill by the house, but Mr. Bartine said it would not be convenient for him to leave Washington until after the special order of the house for next week is disposed of. Accordingly it was proposed that the debate take place after action in the house and prior to action in the senate on the Bland bill. No conclusion has been reached, but it is quite probable that a joint debate will be reached between the friends and opponents of free coinage.

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

Restoring Duties on Certain Imports from South American Countries.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The Evening Star has this: It is possible that the President's proclamation, reimposing duties on certain imports from Venezuela, Hayti, and Colombia, will lead again to a test of the validity of the reciprocity clause in the McKinley bill. The proclamation opens the way for the direct question to be brought before the court, and it will be the policy of those who are interested in discrediting the McKinley act to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Speaking of the proclamation to-day, Representative Turner, of Georgia, the lawyer member of the ways and means committee, said: The restoration of duties on coffee and other commodities from Venezuela, Hayti and Colombia, will greatly disturb our trade with these countries and will operate a great hardship upon Americans engaged in that trade. The question of the constitutionality of the law under which the proclamation is issued may be tested in the courts.

Secretary Elkins in New York.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Secretary Elkins left Washington this afternoon for New York, where he expects to remain till next Tuesday.

Secretary Blaine's Condition.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—The only change in Secretary Blaine's condition to-day is in the direction of a slight improvement.

DEEMING'S DARK DEEDS.

The Liverpool Fiend Sailed, Under a False Name.

A COLD-BLOODED VILLAIN.

Who Removed All Obstacles When He Wanted a New Wife—His Brother Summoned Before the Coroner's Inquest—He Is Taken for the Murderer Himself on Account of His Resemblance to Him, and Narrowly Escapes Being Mobbed.

LIVERPOOL, March 17.—The excitement caused by the discovery yesterday of the five bodies buried under the floor of a house at Rain Hill, a part of the town of Liverpool, shows no signs of abatement whatever and further developments in the case are eagerly awaited.

It has transpired that before coming to England Williams, the man whose arrest at Melbourne, led to the unearthing of the bodies was living in Sydney, N. S. W. Shortly after he left his wife and four children disappeared and it was supposed that they followed Williams to England. Rumors of his intended marriage to a young girl named Mather, had reached Sydney, and it was naturally supposed that Mrs. Williams and her children had left Liverpool to prevent the consummation of this crime. Williams did marry the girl, and took her to Melbourne, where he killed her in order to marry another girl.

The more the facts in this strange case are brought to light, the stronger grows the belief that Williams is the most consummate cold-blooded villain that this or any other country has ever produced. A theory has been advanced that he is insane, but there has been too much method in his madness for this theory to gain many supporters. He certainly appears to have had a mania for marrying, and nothing seems to have deterred him from putting his wives out of the way, did they prove obstacles to his contracting other bigamous marriages.

The police believe that he has committed other murders than those known, and the authorities at every place he is known or supposed to have ever visited have been notified to trace his movements in their respective localities.

THE MURDERER'S BROTHER.

It has been learned that the name of Williams is an assumed one, and that the murderer's proper name is Deeming, the name under which he married the woman whose mutilated body was found under the hearthstone at Dinham villa. Deeming has a brother who resides in Birkenhead, across the river from Liverpool, and he was summoned to attend the coroner's inquest on the bodies of Mrs. Deeming and the four children. He arrived at Rain Hill this afternoon. He bears a most striking resemblance to his brother, and some of the people in the crowd thought it was the murderer himself.

The news spread with lightning-like rapidity that the murderer had returned, in the excitement no one recalling that he was safely in the custody of the police at Melbourne. The crowd hooted and yelled and finally made a threatening rush for Deeming. The latter thought that his life was in danger and wasted no time in trying to explain matters to the infuriated mob. He sought safety in flight, which was no doubt the wisest thing to do under the circumstances, and rushed to a hotel, in which he found shelter from the yelling crowd of men and boys who followed him to the very doors of the hostelry.

Two sisters of Marie Deeming to-day visited the place where the bodies are lying and identified the remains of the woman and also of the four children, whose names were respectively given as Bertha, Marie, Lilla and Sydney.

OF GOOD FAMILY.

It was ascertained that the murderer, Frederick Deeming, is a member of a good family residing in Birkenhead. He has always been of a restless disposition and has led a roving, unsettled life. He married the woman Marie James in 1880, and she accompanied him to Australia. She remained in that country for a number of years and returned to England in July last, bringing with her four children. The woman and her children remained with her sisters until they mysteriously disappeared. The excavations in Rain Hill villa were continued throughout the day, but, in spite of the closest search, no further discovery of bodies were made.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, March 17.—Williams, it is expected, will reach Perth to-morrow. He is well guarded by the police in view of any dangerous outbreak of popular feeling against him. After a formal magisterial inquiry at Perth, Williams will be remanded for court proceedings here.

DYNAMITE AT HIS DOOR.

Attempt to Blow Up a Judge Who Had Sentenced Anarchists.

LIVER, March 17.—As announced in these dispatches, yesterday three anarchists, who had stolen 500 pounds of dynamite from a mill, and afterward attempted to blow up the magazine at the mill, were sentenced, one to fifteen years and the others to twelve years penal servitude each. These sentences aroused the ire of the prisoners' fellow anarchists, and they determined, if possible, to take revenge.

The object of vengeance was the president of the court, who had sentenced the culprits. This morning a dynamite cartridge was discovered at the door of the residence of the president of the court. Fortunately it was found before it was exploded, and consequently no harm was done. An inquiry into the affair is now going on.

Home Secretary Interrogated.

LONDON, March 17.—Several questions were put to Home Secretary Matthews in the house of commons this evening regarding the execution of poachers Rayner and Egglestone. The speaker called Mr. Conybere, Liberal, to order for accusing Mr. Matthews of not taking the trouble to refer to the documents bearing on the case. Mr. Hunter (Liberal) then asked whether Mr. Matthews, after this judicial scandal, was prepared to make a definition of what constitutes

the crime of murder more in harmony with the sentiments of the people. Mr. Matthews declined to answer off-hand a question on a law that had lasted for centuries.

WHEELING SHOOTERS WIN

At the Live Bird Tournament at Pittsburgh Yesterday.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 17.—A live bird tournament took place at Exposition Park this afternoon under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Gun Club. There was a large number of entries and some good scores were made. The limit was ten live birds and the entrance fee \$3. First money was divided between Scott, of Wheeling, and Hamilton and Lewis, of Pittsburgh, each bringing down the ten birds. Second money, with nine birds, was divided between Lemon, of Wheeling, Morgan, of Natrona, Pa., and Messrs. Snyder, Glesenkamp, Denny, King and Walters, of Pittsburgh. Third money, with eight birds was divided between Messrs. Burt and Penn, of Wheeling; Langberry, of Ligonier; Scrogg, of Beaver; Glover, of Erie; Arden, of Washington; Johnson, of Canonsburg and Messrs. Peterson, Nattin and Newberry, of Pittsburgh.

BRAINED HIS WIFE

In a Drunken Fit—No Grounds for the Accusations Against Her.

PITTSBURGH, March 17.—Dennis Cloonan, a burly switchman employed by the Pennsylvania railroad, went to his home on Congress street this evening under the influence of liquor, and after accusing his wife of infidelity assaulted her with a chair, beating her brains out. He then told the next door neighbor of the deed, after which he disappeared. Mrs. Cloonan was still living when found, but she died an hour later. Her skull was crushed and her body was covered with bruises. When Cloonan's sons, James and Thomas, aged eighteen and twenty-four years respectively, heard of the murder, they started out to capture their father. They traced him to a house on Webster street and then notified the police and had him arrested. Cloonan is fifty-five years of age and his wife was ten years his junior. The neighbors say he frequently assaulted her, but that there were no grounds for his suspicions.

THE READING DEAL.

The New York Senate Committee's Preliminary Report.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 17.—The special committee to investigate the coal deal to-day made its preliminary report to the senate. The report says that from testimony taken it so far appears that agreements have been made whereby the Central railway, of New Jersey, has been leased for 999 years to the Port Reading Railroad company, and the Lehigh Valley road for a similar term to the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad company; that the Philadelphia & Reading and the Port Reading, the lessors of the lines referred to, through the instrumentality of other companies, namely the Reading Construction Company and Reading Coal and Iron Company, are identified in interests, and that the combinations thus made through the various companies who are in fact the lessors of the property referred to, will control about 55 per cent of the carrying trade in coal, and with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, more than 75 per cent.

PORTENTS IN THE SKIES.

Crosses, Sun-Dogs and Halos Affrighting Superstitious People.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., March 17.—Another phenomenal display in the heavens attracted attention yesterday and added new terrors to the situation for the superstitious. The sun was surrounded by a small halo, and on either side appeared a bright spot, or sun-dog, while passing clear around the heavens and cutting through the sun at an angle of perhaps 45 degrees from the point of view was a bright band, showing in marked contrast to the hazy clouds with which the heavens were mottled.

The brilliant display of Tuesday evening and the curious appearance of the moon for some time past make up a series of phenomena that are acknowledged by old sailors and plainmen to be unprecedented. The moon on one evening this week had across its face in lugo clouds a perfect figure of a cross. Last night it was the center of a brilliant auroral band, which passed upward to the zenith and downward to the horizon. Superstitious people think these are signs that portend the speedy coming of the last great day.

FORT DODGE, IA., March 17.—Superstitious people in this vicinity are worried over a strange sight in the heavens. A well-defined black cross appeared across the face of the moon. Those who saw this insist it was not caused by the clouds. It is claimed a similar cross was seen just before the war.

Louisville Lotteries Closed.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 17.—All the lottery offices here, including the general office, where drawings are made, closed to-day, and it is believed they will remain closed permanently. The managers say they are only awaiting the decision of the courts that their vested rights cannot be taken away by any law, but public sentiment is aroused against them. The Citizens' Association, an organization which for several years has been working for municipal reform, will aid in the prosecution. The surrender of the Louisiana lottery has had a marked effect in weakening the position of the Frankfort lottery, and its suppression seems assured. The closing of the general offices of course puts an end to all operations elsewhere.

Lady Somerset at Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, March 17.—Lady Henry Somerset and her associates, Frances Willard and Anna Gordon, arrived in Pittsburgh this morning. Lady Somerset spent the afternoon in visiting the mills, and this evening addressed an audience of 3,000 people, mostly mill workers and their wives, at Old City Hall. She will leave for the east to-morrow.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For Ohio, fair, preceded by snow in southeast portion to-night; slightly warmer; fair and warm Saturday; north winds.

For Western Pennsylvania, local snows; northeast winds stationary temperature.

For West Virginia, snow, followed by clearing with a heavy northwest wind; fair Saturday and a slight rise in temperature.

TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY.